BLACK CROWES
ROCK 'N' ROLL
COMICS
34
SEPT
$2.50
REVOLUTIONARY COMICS
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.
Scott Jackson
The Black Crowes

★★★ REVOLUTIONARY COMMENTS ★★★

3841 Fourth Ave., Suite 229 ❐ San Diego, CA 92103

By Todd Loren

MOJO KNOWS

Mojo Nixon has got to be the coolest man in rock n' roll! Not only did he have the class to let us do a totally off-the-wall "authorized" biography about him, but he gave his fans an impromptu live performance at the Revolutionary Comics booth at the San Diego Comicon held over the July 4th weekend! Needless to say it was the high-point of the convention. He started it off with a song he made up about being featured in Rock N' Roll Comics: "I don't know why they got ZZ Top on the cover, I'm gonna be bigger than those guys!" Thanks Mojo, you made the convention really special for us!

YOU'RE WELCOME!!!

"Dear Todd,

Thank you for Rock N' Roll Comics.

Thank you for being who you are.

The last paragraph of "A Little History" (Issue 19) perfectly sums up why I subscribe to your publications: they cnronicle the lives of dreamers who do what they want to do, and make it.

> ***"Thank you for being who you are."***

***The Beatles Experience** is awesome. I love the Beatles. They are more than just a band to me. They are the Apostles Of Creating Your Own Reality. Your cosmic treatment of their beginnings is right on. I know these four have been together in past lives. They were just waiting for this one so they could unite once more and conquer the world.*

The two Doors issues were also nothing short of fantastic. Greg Fox did an outstanding job on the artwork. Jay Allen Sanford should have written the screenplay for Oliver Stone's film. Sanford's treatment of the history of The Doors, as a complete band, was much more comprehensive than Stone's "Jim Morrison: Rendezvous With Death".

Please keep up the good work.

Thanks again for following your dreams.

Peace of mind,

Tim Bennett,
1201 Buena Vista D
San Clemente, CA 92672."

WICCA RAP

"Dear Mr. Loren,

I recently saw your June issue #27 part two of the Doors series. I wish to call to your attention an item on page six that is totally inaccurate.

> ***"The idea of blood letting in The Craft is a completely inaccurate concept."***

You identify Patricia Kennely as a "High Wiccan Priestess", and the coven ceremony the "White Witch equivalent of a wedding" (handfasting). My greatest concern is what follows in the panel below depicting the "ceremony" where the couple is told: "Now then, you two shall extract your life blood from each other's arms and mingle thy fluid within the consecrated flagon of wine. Now that you've marked the written runes with your blood, I pronounce you wedded."

The idea of blood letting in The Craft is a completely inaccurate concept, let alone at a handfasting, a time of joy and celebration.

Finally, my greatest concern is with the small panel which SHOWS Jim and Patricia drinking blood! This is outrageous. Never in all my many years in The Craft have I ever seen or heard of such a thing! There is no more truth to this than if I were to depict a Christian or Jewish wedding in which the participants drink blood. See page 31.

Mojo Nixon at the Revolutionary Comics booth, San Diego Comicon '91.

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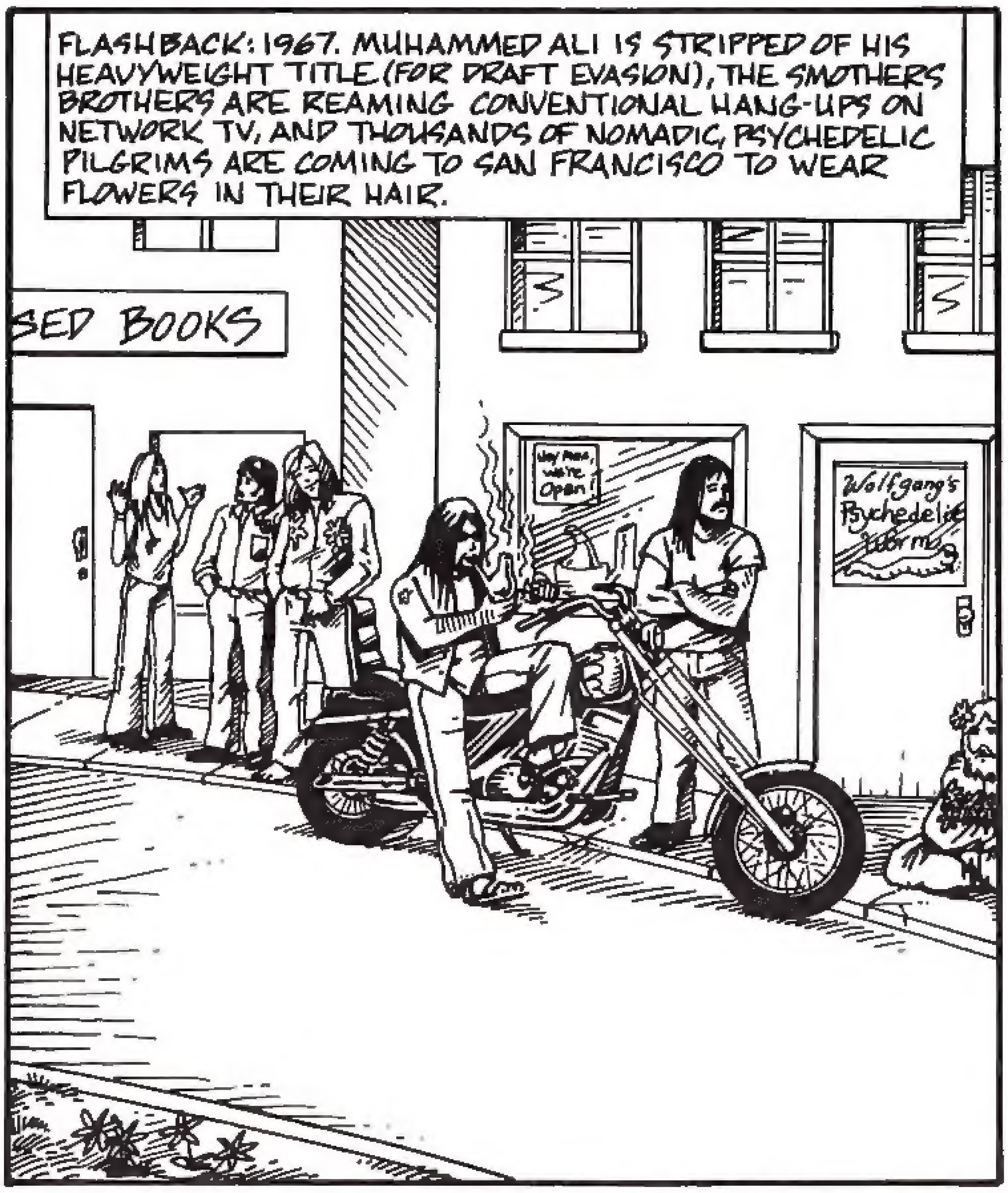
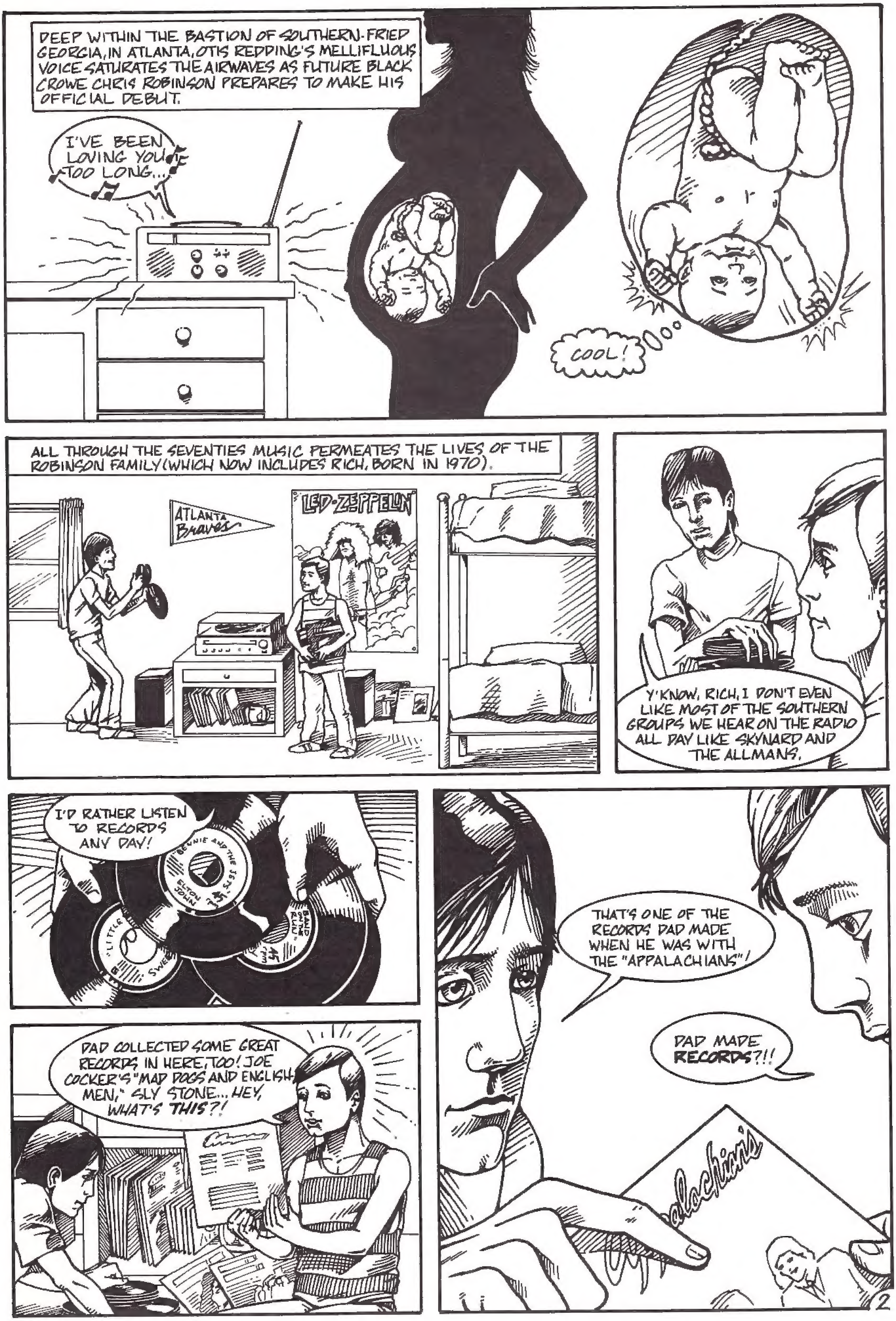
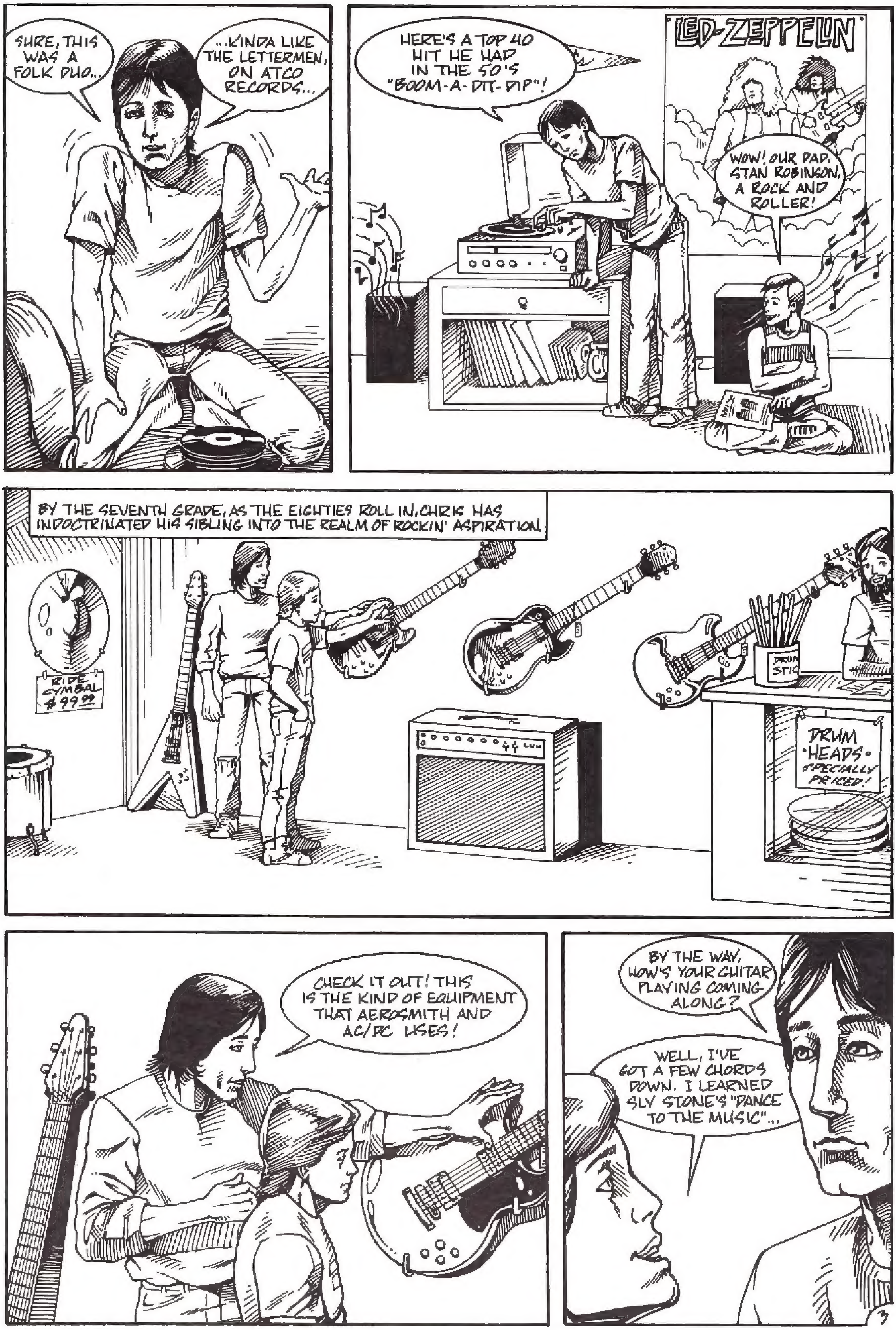
FLYIN' HIGH
with
the
BLACK CROWES
STORY: JAY ALLEN SANFORD
ART: SCOTT PENTZER
EDITOR: TODD LOREN
LETTERS: MARY KELLEHER
bass
JOHNNY COLT
lead guitar
JEFF CEASE
vocals
CHRIS ROBINSON
rhythm guitar
RICH ROBINSON
drums
STEVE GORMAN


FLASHBACK: 1967. MUHAMMED ALI IS STRIPPED OF HIS HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE (FOR DRAFT EVASION), THE SMOTHERS BROTHERS ARE REAMING CONVENTIONAL HANG-UPS ON NETWORK TV, AND THOUSANDS OF NOMADIC PSYCHEDELIC PILGRIMS ARE COMING TO SAN FRANCISCO TO WEAR FLOWERS IN THEIR HAIR.
SED BOOKS
Hey Man, We're Open!
Wolfgang's Psychedelic Worms

IN MUSIC, IT IS THE YEAR OF THE MONKEES, THE DOORS, THE JEFFERSON AIRPLANE AND BURNING UP THE STAGE AT THE MONTEREY POP FESTIVAL WITH AN INCENDIARY SET, THE PHENOMENAL OTIS REDDING.
SHOUT! A LITTLE BIT LOUDER NOW...



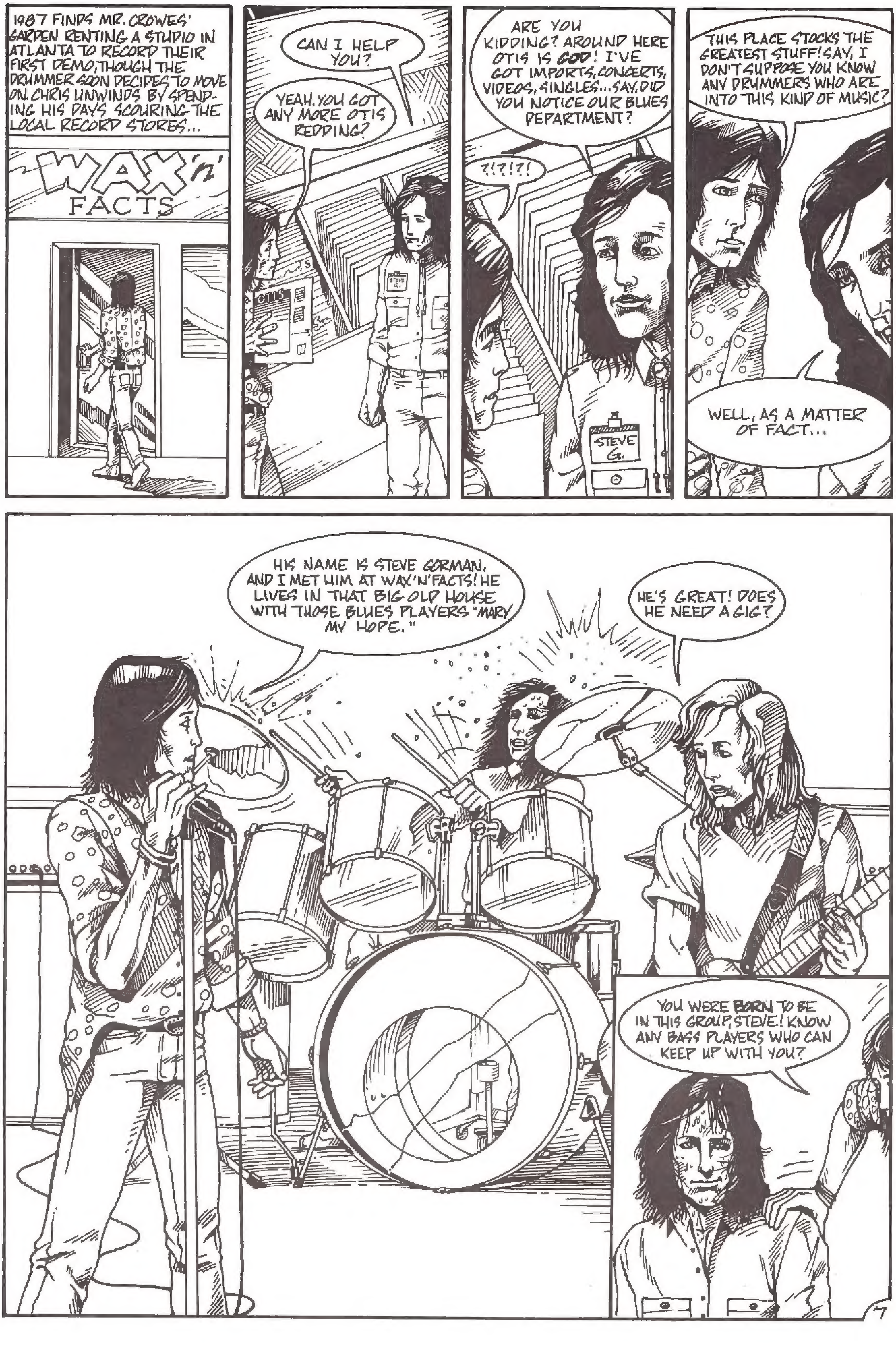
DEEP WITHIN THE BASTION OF SOUTHERN-FRIED GEORGIA, IN ATLANTA, OTIS REDDING'S MELLIFLUOUS VOICE SATURATES THE AIRWAVES AS FUTURE BLACK CROWE CHRIS ROBINSON PREPARES TO MAKE HIS OFFICIAL DEBUT.
I'VE BEEN LOVING YOU TOO LONG...
COOL!
ALL THROUGH THE SEVENTIES MUSIC PERMEATES THE LIVES OF THE ROBINSON FAMILY (WHICH NOW INCLUDES RICH, BORN IN 1970).
ATLANTA Braves
LED ZEPPELIN
Y'KNOW, RICH, I DON'T EVEN LIKE MOST OF THE SOUTHERN GROUPS WE HEAR ON THE RADIO ALL DAY LIKE SKYNARD AND THE ALLMANS.
I'D RATHER LISTEN TO RECORDS ANY DAY!
BENNIE AND THE JETS
ELTON JOHN
DAD COLLECTED SOME GREAT RECORDS IN HERE, TOO! JOE COCKER'S "MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN," SLY STONE... HEY, WHAT'S **THIS**?!
THAT'S ONE OF THE RECORDS DAD MADE WHEN HE WAS WITH THE "APPALACHIANS"!
DAD MADE **RECORDS**?!!
alachians


SURE, THIS WAS A FOLK DUO...
...KINDA LIKE THE LETTERMEN, ON ATCO RECORDS...
HERE'S A TOP 40 HIT HE HAD IN THE 50'S "BOOM-A-DIT-DIP"!
LED-ZEPPELIN
WOW! OUR DAD, STAN ROBINSON, A ROCK AND ROLLER!
BY THE SEVENTH GRADE, AS THE EIGHTIES ROLL IN, CHRIS HAS INDOCTRINATED HIS SIBLING INTO THE REALM OF ROCKIN' ASPIRATION.
RIDE CYMBAL $99.99
DRUM HEADS SPECIALLY PRICED!
CHECK IT OUT! THIS IS THE KIND OF EQUIPMENT THAT AEROSMITH AND AC/DC USES!
BY THE WAY, HOW'S YOUR GUITAR PLAYING COMING ALONG?
WELL, I'VE GOT A FEW CHORDS DOWN. I LEARNED SLY STONE'S "DANCE TO THE MUSIC"...

BY 1984, YOUNG RICH (THE QUIET, INTROSPECTIVE BROTHER) HAS DEVELOPED SOME FORMIDABLE, IF SOMEWHAT FOLKY, CHOPS.
CHECK IT OUT! I LEARNED THIS CAT STEVENS SONG.
WHAT! AAAARRRGGGH...
HOWEVER, CHRIS TRIES TO STEER HIM TOWARDS MORE METALLURGIC MUSIC.
THAT CRAP'S NOT GONNA CUT IT! YOU GOTTA CUT LOOSE, BURN THE FRETS!
KICK OUT THE JAMS AND ROCK, FER CHRISSAKES!
I DON'T SEE YOU PRACTICING AN INSTRUMENT FIVE HOURS A DAY LIKE I DO!
HEY, MY VOICE IS MY INSTRUMENT. I'M HONING IT EVERY TIME I TALK!
THAT'S A LOT OF HONING, BRO!
IN 1985, CHRIS IS 18 AND RICH IS 15. ONE EVENING FINDS THEM WATCHING A LATE NIGHT CABLE TV CHANNEL.
HEY, CHECK OUT THIS CARTOON! THAT CAT IS SQUEEZING THE CAT GIRL'S TITTIES! WHAT IS THIS WEIRD STUFF?!
IT'S CALLED "FRITZ THE CAT" ...HEY, LOOK AT THE CROW DUDE!

I'VE GOTTA SKETCH THIS! I LOVE THE LOOK OF THESE CROWS!
THAT SUMMER...
GOD, I HATE HAVING TO WORK! SHOVELING MANURE FOR THE GARDEN...
I'D RATHER BE GETTING A BAND TOGETHER, LIKE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT!
YEAH, CHRIS, WE COULD CALL OURSELVES "THE GARDENERS"!
OR MAYBE "THE CROWES." WE COULD SPELL IT WITH AN "E" JUST TO BE DIFFERENT.
HOW ABOUT "MR. CROWES' GARDEN"?
THE TAGLINE STICKS AS THEY, ALONG WITH THREE LACONIC SCHOOL FRIENDS, LAND A GIG LATER THAT YEAR IN CHATTANOOGA.
WELL, BOYS, HERE'S A CHECK FOR $50. YOU KNOW, YOU'D PROBABLY GET MORE JOBS IF YOU PLAYED MORE ZEP-PELIN OR SOME-THING. PUNK IS A DEAD SCENE AROUND HERE!
YEAH, BUT EVERYONE DOES COVERS! WE WANT TO STICK TO AN ALL-ORIGINAL SET...
BESIDES, WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH AT MIMICKING TO LEARN ANY COVERS!

I'D LIKE TO CASH THIS...IT'S MY FIRST PAYCHECK AS A ROCK AND ROLL SINGER!
I'M SORRY, BUT THE ACCOUNT THIS CHECK WAS DRAWN ON HAS INSUFFICIENT FUNDS!
!!??!!??
WELL, AT LEAST WE HAVE SOME UPCOMING SHOWS IN ATLANTA, CHRIS... AS LONG AS THE CLUB OWNERS DON'T FIND OUT WE'RE BOTH UNDER-AGE!
HAVE YOU GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO WHAT THAT GUY SAID ABOUT DOING MORE COVER SONGS?
NAW. HE'S NUTS. THAT'S A DEAD END.
SEE, I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP ON WRITING SONGS ABOUT REALITY! ...LOST LOVE, ADDICTION, DEATH!
DID I EVER PLAY YOU MY THREE NICK DRAKE ALBUMS?
ISN'T HE THAT ENGLISH FOLKIE WHO O.D.'D ON SOME ANTI-DEPRESSANT DRUG?
YEP. THAT'S HIM, THE KING OF DEPRESSION! EVEN THOUGH HE DIED IN '74, HIS MUSIC'S MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER!
JUST LIKE DYLAN'S "POSITIVELY FOURTH STREET"... THOSE ARE MY BIBLES, MAN!


1987 FINDS MR. CROWES' GARDEN RENTING A STUDIO IN ATLANTA TO RECORD THEIR FIRST DEMO, THOUGH THE DRUMMER SOON DECIDES TO MOVE ON. CHRIS UNWINDS BY SPENDING HIS DAYS SCOURING THE LOCAL RECORD STORES...
WAX 'n' FACTS
CAN I HELP YOU?
YEAH. YOU GOT ANY MORE OTIS REDDING?
OTIS
STEVE G.
ARE YOU KIDDING? AROUND HERE OTIS IS GOD! I'VE GOT IMPORTS, CONCERTS, VIDEOS, SINGLES... SAY, DID YOU NOTICE OUR BLUES DEPARTMENT?
?!?!?!
STEVE G.
THIS PLACE STOCKS THE GREATEST STUFF! SAY, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW ANY DRUMMERS WHO ARE INTO THIS KIND OF MUSIC?
WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT...
HIS NAME IS STEVE GORMAN, AND I MET HIM AT WAX 'N' FACTS! HE LIVES IN THAT BIG OLD HOUSE WITH THOSE BLUES PLAYERS "MARY MY HOPE."
HE'S GREAT! DOES HE NEED A GIG?
YOU WERE BORN TO BE IN THIS GROUP, STEVE! KNOW ANY BASS PLAYERS WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH YOU?

SIX BASS PLAYERS LATER...
RICH, THIS IS JOHNNY COLT.
NICE TO MEET YOU, JOHNNY. WHAT KIND OF MUSIC ARE YOU INTO?
MOSTLY JUST PUMPIN' HARD ROCK - AEROSMITH, BLUE OYSTER CULT, SEVENTIES STUFF...
COLT SOON JOINS MR. CROWE'S GARDEN ON A FULL-TIME BASIS.
IN 1988, THE ROBINSON BROTHERS, ALONG WITH GORMAN AND COLT, CONTEMPLATE ONE FINAL COMPONENT.
Y'KNOW, A SECOND GUITARIST MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA. I SPEND SO MUCH TIME WITH THE RHYTHMS THAT THERE'S HARDLY ANY LEAD WORK!
YEAH, BUT WE DON'T WANT SOMEBODY WHO CAN JUST PLAY WELL... WE NEED SOMEONE WE CAN CONSIDER A CROWE!
HE'S GOTTA BE LIKE US, LIVE LIKE WE DO!
IN NASHVILLE THE GROUP IS BACKED UP BY A LOCAL OUTFIT FRONTED BY GUITARIST JEFF CEASE. ONE NIGHT AFTER THEIR RESPECTIVE SETS...
HEY, THE CAR FOLLOWIN' US... IT'S THE DUDE FROM THAT OTHER BAND, JEFF... AND A BUNCH OF GIRLS!
HE MUST'VE HEARD US TALKING ABOUT THAT GIRL'S PARTY WE'RE GOING TO! THEY WANNA CRASH!
HHHMMMM...

CHECK IT OUT! THAT JEFF GUY GOT IN!
RIGHT FROM THE START JEFF GETS ALONG WITH THE CROWES...
DID YOU JUST SEE JEFF PUT HIS CIGARETTE OUT ON THIS EXPENSIVE CARPET?!
FFT
THAT'S SOMETHING ONE OF US WOULD PROBABLY DO!
LATER THAT YEAR JEFF'S BAND AGAIN OPENS FOR MR. CROWE'S GARDEN, THIS TIME IN ATLANTA. BACKSTAGE...
SO, JEFF, YOU KNOW ANY JOHNNY LEE HOOKER?
YOU'D BE HARD PRESSED TO FIND A SONG BY HIM I DON'T KNOW!
THE FIRST STUFF I EVER LISTENED TO BACK IN MEMPHIS, WAS ELVIS, B.B. KING, CHUCK BERRY AND HOOKER!
I GOT INTO SOME KISS AND PUNK TUNES WITH MY LAST BAND, BUT I'M TIRED OF DOING ALL THE WRITING AND BOOKING!
WELL, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GIG...
WITH THE ADDITION OF JEFF CEASE, THE LINE-UP IS COMPLETE!

1989 FINDS THE CROWES MIGRATING NORTH, AS THEY FEATHER A FEW WELL-KNOWN NEW YORK NESTS...
THIS CITY IS INCREDIBLE! IT'S LIKE ALL THE SEEDIEST PARTS OF ATLANTA, TIMES ONE HUNDRED!
Candy's 24 HOUR HOT OIL FOOT Massage
BUT ALL THE CLUBS WE'RE PLAYING ARE HOT, SMOKEY AND REEKING LIKE DANTE'S HELL!
YEAH, ISN'T IT GREAT?!
THE OWNER OF THE PLACE WE PLAYED SATURDAY TOLD ME THAT GEORGE DRAKOULIAS WAS AT THE GIG! HE'S THE GUY THAT PRODUCED THE CULT. HE TOLD THE OWNER HE'S INTERESTED IN HELPING US GET SIGNED!
DRAKOULIAS TAKES THE TASK TO HEART. AFTER MANY MONTHS OF DEMO-SHOPPING AND PAVEMENT-STALKING...
GUYS! RICK RUBIN'S OUT THERE TONITE! HE'S THE HEAD OF DEF AMERICAN RECORDS!
DRESSING ROOM
HEY, LITTLE THING, LET ME LIGHT YOUR CANDLE...
THAT NIGHT'S VOLCANIC SET IS CAPPED BY CHRIS' LAVA-SCORCHED RENDITION OF OTIS REDDING'S "HARD TO HANDLE"...
OUR LABEL IS DISTRIBUTED BY GEFFEN RECORDS, SO WE CAN OFFER MAXIMUM EXPOSURE! DRAKOULIAS HAS OFFERED TO PRODUCE.
SO...IS MR. CROWE'S GARDEN GOING TO JOIN OUR ROSTER?
NO...
BUT THE BLACK CROWES WILL!!

UNDER THEIR NEW NOM-DE-PLUME, THE BLACK CROWES ENTER AN ATLANTA STUDIO IN EARLY 1989, FULL OF ENTHUSIASM AND EXPECTING A FULLY-STOCKED CONTINGENT OF EQUIPMENT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! TWO AMPS AND THREE BATTERED OLD GUITARS!
OUR GARAGE IS BETTER OUTFITTED!
WELL, AT LEAST I BROUGHT MY TELECASTER!
THE NO-FRILLS ATMOSPHERE SUITS THEIR STRAIGHT-AHEAD APPROACH. MOST TRACKS GO TO TAPE LIVE, WITH JUST TWO UN-ENHANCED GUITARS, A FRENETIC RHYTHM SECTION AND CHRIS' BARROOM BELLOW. THEY RECORD THROUGH JULY IN ATLANTA AND L.A.
DRUMMER STEVE GORMAN DRIVES A DECREPIT 1966 DODGE DART, WHICH HAS ATTAINED ITS "LIVED-IN LOOK" FROM CONSTANT SODDEN LATE-NIGHT ENCOUNTERS WITH TRASH BINS...
CRASH
THIS "CRASH" SOUND IS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED FOR "THICK'N'THIN"! WE SHOULD FIND MORE DUMPSTERS TO CRASH INTO SO WE CAN GET DIFFERENT SOUNDS!
KERASH
IT TOOK SEVEN CRASHES, BUT THAT'S PERFECT! IT DIS-TRACTS FROM WHAT THIS NASTY SONG IS REALLY ABOUT!
CCRRAASSHH

THIS IS JUST WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO! HAVE SOME FUN AND PLAY SOME GOOD OLD, PURE, HARD ROCK LIKE THE STONES AND FREE! NO POST-VAN HALEN GUITAR PROTOTECHNICS!
NOWADAYS, IF SOMEBODY STICKS A FLANGER IN MY FACE, I'M PRACTICALLY READY TO PUNCH 'EM!
WE'RE GONNA GET COMPARED A LOT TO THE STONES, YOU KNOW, AND NOT JUST 'CAUSE I PLAY AN OPEN "G" TUNED RHYTHM.
YEAH, JEFF'S LEADS AND BOTTLENECK PLAYING SOMETIMES REMIND ME OF KEITH RICHARDS. BUT REALLY, OUR SONGS HAVE VERY LITTLE IN COMMON LYRICALLY OR MUSICALLY.
YOUR LYRICS ARE MORE STEVEN TYLER...
AND YOUR TUNES ARE STRAIGHT OUT OF HUMBLE PIE.
SINCE YOU TWO WROTE ALL THE SONGS ON THE ALBUM, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MAYBE RECORDING A COVER SONG, JUST TO KIND OF BALANCE THE MIX?
HMM. THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE SONG I CAN THINK OF THAT'D BE THE PERFECT CAPPER TO OUR FIRST RECORD...
"HARD TO HANDLE" BY OTIS REDDING!

THE CAMARADERIE AMONG THE CROWES EXTENDS BEYOND THE EMBRYONIC ENVIRONS OF THE STUDIO.
WE'RE MORE LIKE A TRIBE THAN A BAND... WE'RE THE BLACK CROWES 24 HOURS A DAY!
SO, CHRIS, YOU'RE THE WORDSMITH. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO CALL THE ALBUM WHEN WE FINISH IT?
HOW ABOUT "SHAKE YOUR MONEYMAKER"? IT'S WHAT WE DO, ISN'T IT?
WHETHER IT'S A DANCER IN A STRIP CLUB OR ME WIGGLING MY ASS ONSTAGE, IT'S THE SAME THING. WE'RE SHAKING OUR MONEYMAKERS!
ONE OF THE FEW CONCESSIONS TO THEIR SOUTHERN ROOTS IS AN APPEARANCE ON THE LP BY ALLMAN BROTHERS KEYBOARDIST CHUCK LEAVELL.
WHEW! THAT WAS SMOKIN'! YOU BOYS ARE AWFULLY YOUNG TO BE PLAYING THIS KIND OF BALLS-OUT ROCK!
IS THAT BAD, CHUCK?
HELL, NO, IT'S GREAT! I'M JUST SURPRISED IS ALL!

A LOT OF BANDS JUST WANT A BUNCH OF FOURTEEN YEAR OLD GIRLS TO LOOK AT THEM AND SAY "OOH!"
Milli Vanilli
GRAMMY WINNERS!
THAT'S WHY SO MUCH OF TODAY'S MUSIC IS PRE-FABRICATED. SAME LYRICS, SAME CHORUSES. THEY GET SIGNED BECAUSE THEY LOOK COOL AND PLAY COOL SOLOS.
STUDIO NO. 6
IT'S LIKE, ART BY MASS PRODUCTION. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE SONGS?!
FINALLY IN FEBRUARY 1990...
RICH, IT'S OUT!! "SHAKE YOUR MONEYMAKER" HIT THE STORES THIS MORNING!
YOU JUST WAIT! ANY MINUTE NOW YOU'LL HEAR THE FIRST SINGLE "JEALOUS AGAIN" ON THE RADIO. AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, WE'LL TOP THE CHARTS!
IT WOULD PROVE TO BE A LONG "MINUTE" INDEED, BUT THE MOMENT WOULD COME!

THE CROWES HIT THE ROAD IN A SUPPORT JUNKET WITH HEADBANGERS JUNKYARD.
THE ROBINSON BROTHERS SPEND THEIR DOWN-TIME PATROLLING AREA RECORD AND MUSIC SHOPS.
CHECK IT OUT! WIRELESS GUITARS, NO CORDS...
SOLID BODY, TOO. HMM...
THE WIRELESS GUITAR BECOMES PERHAPS THE CROWES ONLY CONCESSION TO MODERN ROCK TECH-NOLOGY.
WHILE RICH MAINTAINS HIS DRUG- AND DRINK-FREE LIFE-STYLE (EVEN DRINKING EVIAN WATER ONSTAGE), CHRIS REVELS IN THE WHIRLWIND HEDONISTIC ROCK 'N' ROLL FAST LANE!
MAN, I GO ON-STAGE EVERY NIGHT AS EMPEROR NERO, BUT WHEN I WAKE UP TOMORROW I'LL BE AS ADDLED AS THE ADVENTUR-ER DON QUIXOTE!
AIN'T IT A BITCH?!
AND THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW RIOTOUS "PRIVATE" PARTIES, BOTH BACK-STAGE AND AT VARIOUS HOTELS. AT ONE POSH HOSTELRY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK...
MAN, THIS IS LIVING! EVEN IF THE ROAD MANAGER IS FUMING OVER A $750. BAR TAB, WE JUST HAVE TO REMEMBER TO CLEAN UP THE ROOMS A LITTLE BEFORE CHECK-OUT TOMORROW.

HOWEVER, WHEN DAYLIGHT FINALLY ARRIVES...
MAN, RICH, I GOT NO SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT, AND, WHAT'S WORSE, I'M DE-HYDRATED FROM ALL THE BOOZE!
WE SHOULD HIT THE HOTEL BAR BEFORE LEAVING.
YOU WILL BE LEAVING TODAY, WON'T YOU, "SIRS"?
HEY, BELLBOY, YOU EVER SPEAK TO ME IN THAT TONE AGAIN AND I'LL JUMP ACROSS THIS DESK AND RIP YOUR FUCKIN' THROAT OUT!
EMERGENCY
ALL RIGHT, WHAT'S GOING ON?
EXCUSE ME, OFFICER, I'M THE BLACK CROWES' ROAD MANAGER. I CAN STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT!
AFTER A FEW TENSE WORDS, EVERYONE IS PLACATED AND THE SITUATION IS SETTLED.
I LIKE THINGS TENSE! LIKE CLOSING YOUR EYES AND GRAB-BING A SWITCHBLADE TO POP THAT BUTTON, NOT KNOWING WHETHER THE BLADE'S GOING FREE OR CUTTING YOUR HAND! THAT'S EXCITING!

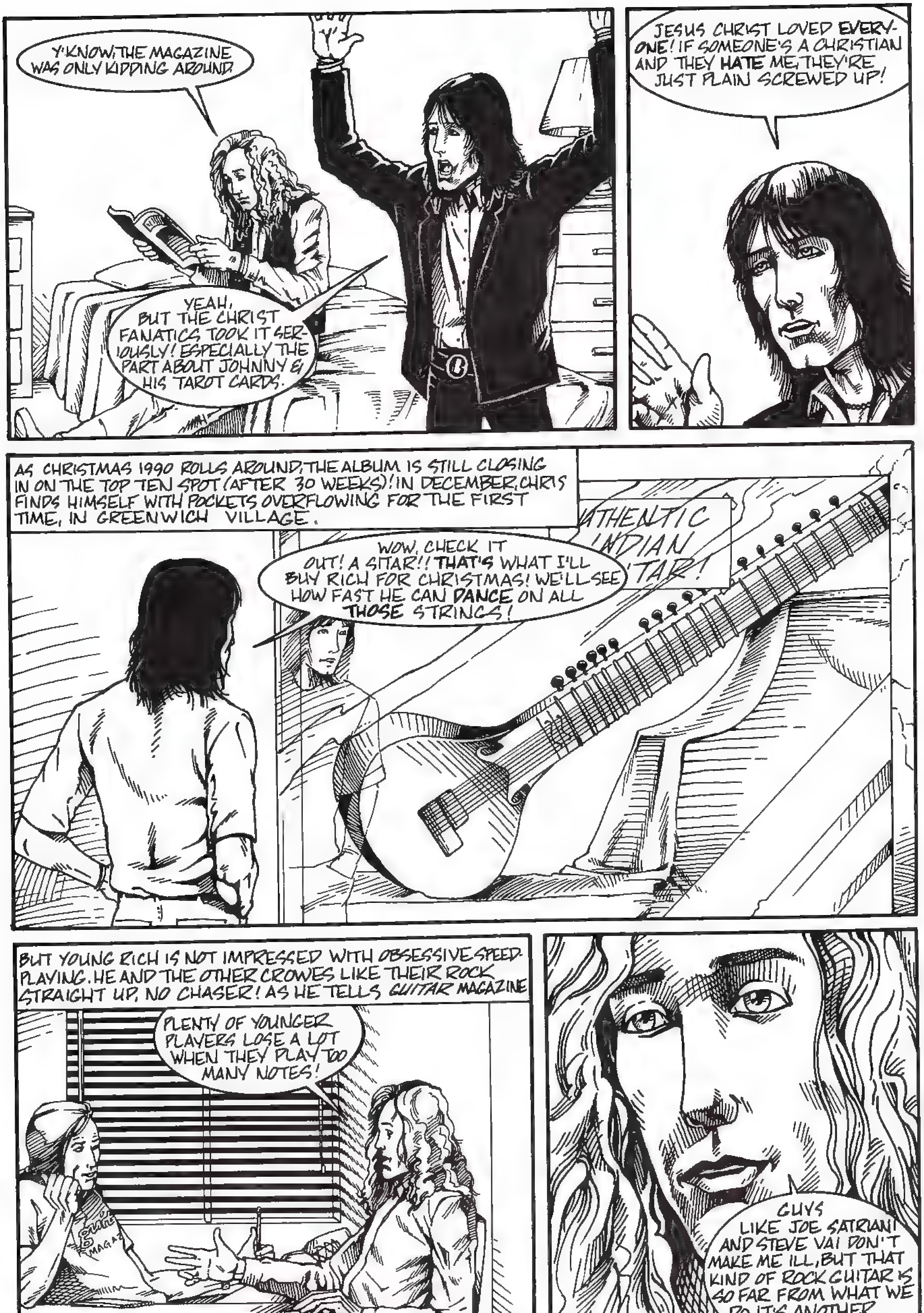
THROUGH SUMMER AND FALL, THE CROWES ARE FLYING HIGH AS THEY OPEN ARENA GIGS FOR THE LIKES OF ROBERT PLANT, HEART, AND THEIR PRECURSOR ROLE MODEL, AEROSMITH.
MAN, STEVIE TYLER...YOU'VE BEEN MY IDOL SINCE I FIRST STARTED SINGING IN THE SHOWER!
YEAH, YOU GUYS REALLY PAVED THE WAY FOR US! THANKS FOR LETTING US OPEN!
WELL, THAT'S COOL. JUST BE SURE TO PAY ATTENTION TO OUR HITS AND OUR MISSES!
YOU COULD LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES, Y'KNOW!*
*FULLY DOCUMENTED IN ROCK'N'ROLL COMICS #11.
ESPECIALLY THE BOOZE, DRUGS AND SEX! I KNOW IT'S TEMPTING TO TAKE ALL THE PARTYIN' THAT COMES YOUR WAY, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE FIRST STARTIN' OUT. THAT STUFF CAN KILL YOU! EVEN SEX!
WE APPRECIATE THE ADVICE, BUT I DON'T THINK THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN TO US THAT YOU AND JOE PERRY WENT THROUGH. WE'RE FROM THE SOUTH AND WE INVENTED THAT CRAP!
ROCK AND ROLL AND SAFETY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER!
HEY, CHRIS, CHECK IT OUT! OUR VIDEO'S ON MTV!!
HEY LITTLE THING LET ME LIGHT YOUR CANDLE
COOL, THE OLD OTIS REDDING CUT! GOOD GROOVE, BOYS...
...JUST DON'T GET SUCKED INTO IT!

BY OCTOBER, MTV HAS THE VIDEO IN HEAVY ROTATION AND THE CROWES' FORMIDABLE REP IS BECOMING KNOWN IN BRITAIN.
IT SAYS HERE IN KERRANG THAT WE'RE "THE GREATEST THING TO INVADE ROCK AND ROLL FOR YEARS." KIND OF GIVES YOU AN EGO, DOESN'T IT?
YEAH, WELL, IF OUR HEADS ARE BIG WHEN WE GO ON THE DAVID LETTERMAN SHOW HE'LL BE GLAD TO BURST OUR BUBBLE! HE'S ONE SARCASTIC DUDE!
HOWEVER, MUCH TO EVERYONE'S SURPRISE...
SO, PAUL, WHO'S OUR MUSICAL GUEST TONIGHT?
YAYY!!
HOORAY!
THE ONE... THE ONLY... THE INSPIRATIONAL... BLACK CROWES!
THE BLACK CROWES! NOW, ISN'T THAT ROCK AND ROLL THE WAY GOD WANTED IT TO BE? TURN-THE-DUMP-OVER-AND-GO-HOME-WITH-THE-WAITRESS ROCK AND ROLL!
LETTERMAN ENDS UP INVITING THE GROUP TO PLAY ON HIS SHOW TWICE IN EIGHT MONTHS!

BY DECEMBER, THE LP HAS BEEN OUT NEARLY A YEAR AND IT'S STILL GRADUALLY CLIMBING THE TOP 40 CHARTS!
18 | 22 | 25 | 43 | THE BLACK CROWES ● DEF AMERICAN 24278 /GEFFEN (9.98) | SHAKE YOUR MONEY MAKER
OUR REP TELLS US WE MIGHT GO PLATINUM AT THIS RATE.
SOME PARTS OF THIS FAME TRIP HAVE BEEN GREAT SO FAR...THE GIRLS, THE FANS, THE CONCERTS, SOME THINGS AREN'T SO COOL...
"...LIKE INTERVIEWS! I HATE DOING PRESS PIECES! SEEMS LIKE I'M ALWAYS PUTTING MY FOOT IN MY MOUTH!"
SO, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING CALLED A "SOUTHERN" ROCK BAND, AND BEING COMPARED TO GROUPS LIKE THE ALLMANS AND SKYNYRD?
WE DON'T GO AROUND WAVING A CONFEDERATE FLAG, BUT WE DO ACKOWLEDGE OUR ROOTS. WE'RE A ROCK BAND, NOT A "SOUTHERN" ROCK BAND, AND BEING COMPARED TO GROUPS LIKE THAT IS STUPID!
WE'RE NOTHING LIKE SKYNYRD...THOSE HICKS WERE FRONTED BY A REDNECK!
RONNIE VAN ZANDT WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST TALENTS EVER! HE WAS A TRUE SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN!
HEY, I DIDN'T SAY HE WAS AN ASSHOLE. I SAID HE WAS A REDNECK! AND SO, I SUSPECT, ARE YOU!
GGGRRRRR!!

MAN, THAT REPORTER WAS PISSED. BUT I'M SICK OF STROKIN' THESE DUDES!
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. THEY'RE ALL WANNA-BE ROCKERS WHO ONLY KNOCK SUCCESSFUL ACTS OR PIGEONHOLE 'EM FOREVER IN CATEGORIES LIKE "METAL," "RETRO" AN' ALL THAT JUNK.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
THE COMPARISON THING REALLY BUGS ME: "THE NEW STONES," "A YOUNG ROD STEWART." WHY DOES EVERYONE TRY TO FORCE US INTO NICHES?
I MEAN, EVERYTHING'S BEEN DONE BEFORE! THERE ARE NO NEW NOTES. WE JUST PUT THEM TOGETHER IN A NEW WAY—OUR WAY! THE BLACK CROWES' WAY!
THAT'S ALL WE HAVE IN COMMON WITH EVERYONE WHO CAME BEFORE! WE DO IT IN OUR STYLE - FLAT OUT AND IN YOUR FACE!
NO COMPROMISE, NO BULLSHIT. JUST CROWE-STYLE ROCK 'N' ROLL!
ROLLING STONES
THE Yardbirds
FACES

THE GARRULOUS CHRIS FINDS THE JOURNALISTIC PAPARAZZI ALL TOO ANXIOUS TO TRANSCRIBE EVERY WORD HE UTTERS...
SO, WHAT KIND OF BOOKS HAVE YOU READ LATELY?
WELL, I JUST FINISHED A REALLY INTENSE FOCUS ON VOODOO AND MAYAN-TYPE WITCHCRAFT, ZOMBIES, SACRIFICE, THAT KINDA JUICY STUFF!
!!!???!!!
YOU LOOK SURPRISED! BOY, I'D BETTER NOT SHOW YOU THE TIBETAN JEWELRY WE HAVE, MADE FROM HUMAN BONES!
JOHNNY COLT, THE ONE WITH THE PIERCED NOSE, HAS A RAT-HEAD RING MADE FROM A VERMIN SKULL DIPPED IN SILVER!
THAT PARTICULAR INTERVIEWER UNFAIRLY PLAYS UP THE JOKING REFERENCE, INSINUATING A "BLACK MAGIC" ANGLE.
I CAN'T **BELIEVE** THIS!! THEY MAKE US OUT TO BE COVEN LEADERS MODELLED AFTER DEVIL-WORSHIPERS LIKE ALEISTER CROWLEY!
HIT SHARADE
...AND IN TEXAS, THE STUDENTS OF CHRIST ARE SPONSORING A BLACK CROWES BOYCOTT. MEANWHILE, **OUR** ORGANIZATION IS ASKING LOCAL SHOPS AND RETAILERS NOT TO CARRY THIS VILE, SATANIC TRASH!
CLICK
TODAY IN GAINESVILLE, OVER 100 ALBUMS BY THE BLACK CROWES WERE SYMBOLICALLY TORCHED!
CLICK
THE BAND VEHEMENTLY DENIES ANY "BLACK MAGIC" CONNECTION...

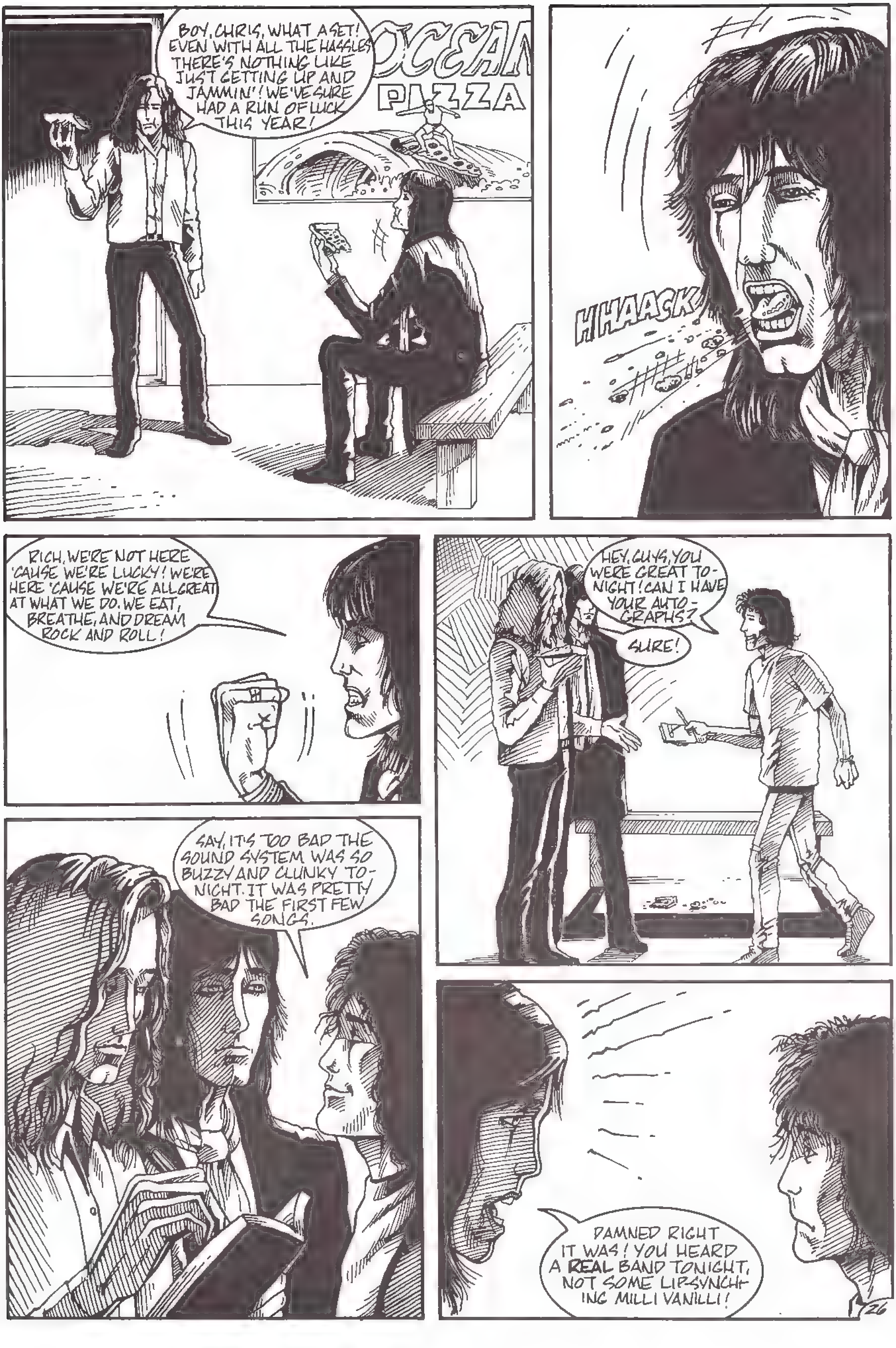


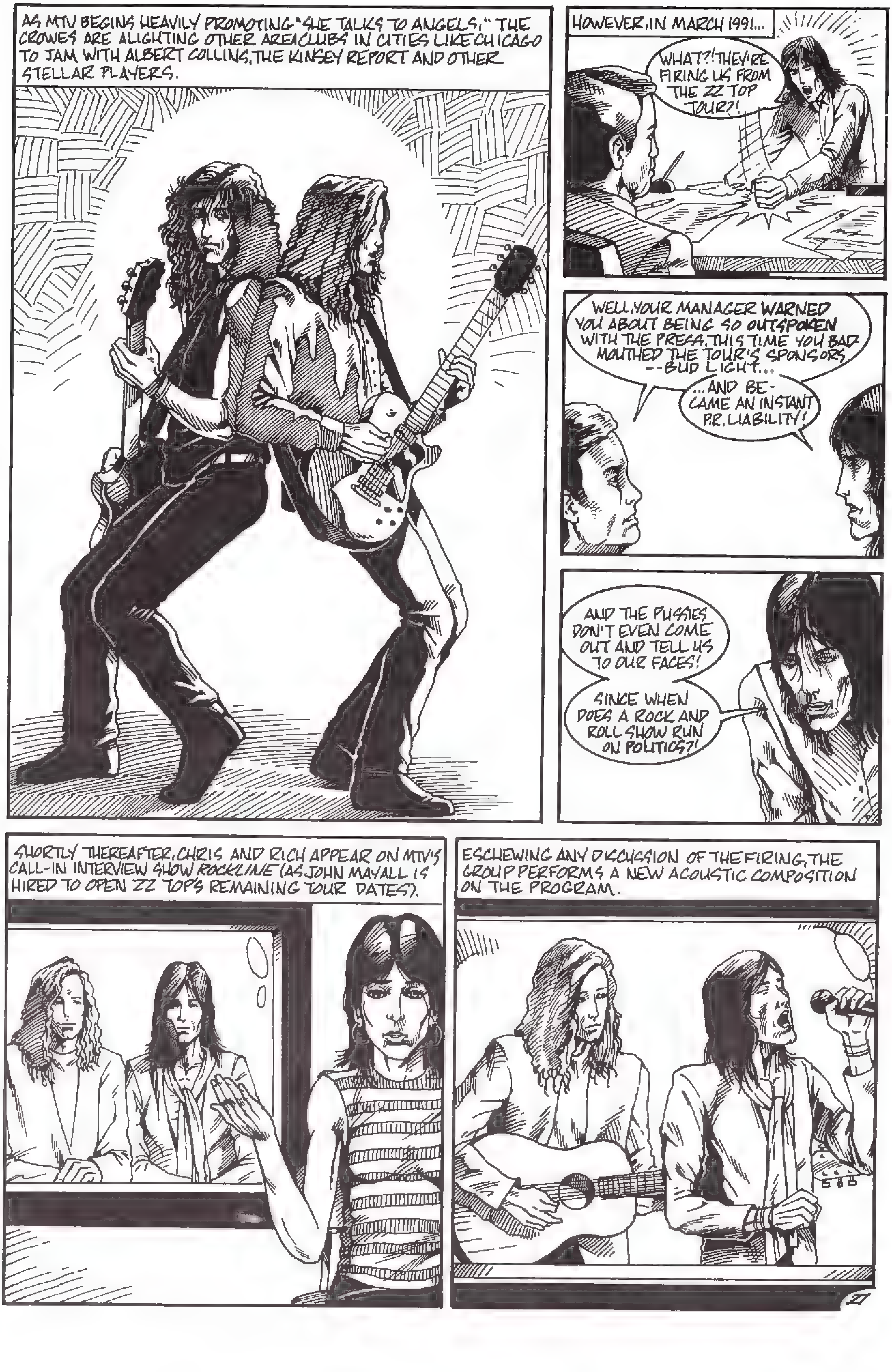
Y'KNOW, THE MAGAZINE WAS ONLY KIDDING AROUND.
YEAH, BUT THE CHRIST FANATICS TOOK IT SERIOUSLY! ESPECIALLY THE PART ABOUT JOHNNY & HIS TAROT CARDS.
JESUS CHRIST LOVED EVERYONE! IF SOMEONE'S A CHRISTIAN AND THEY HATE ME, THEY'RE JUST PLAIN SCREWED UP!
AS CHRISTMAS 1990 ROLLS AROUND, THE ALBUM IS STILL CLOSING IN ON THE TOP TEN SPOT (AFTER 30 WEEKS)! IN DECEMBER, CHRIS FINDS HIMSELF WITH POCKETS OVERFLOWING FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN GREENWICH VILLAGE.
WOW, CHECK IT OUT! A SITAR!! THAT'S WHAT I'LL BUY RICH FOR CHRISTMAS! WE'LL SEE HOW FAST HE CAN DANCE ON ALL THOSE STRINGS!
BUT YOUNG RICH IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH OBSESSIVE SPEED-PLAYING. HE AND THE OTHER CROWES LIKE THEIR ROCK STRAIGHT UP, NO CHASER! AS HE TELLS GUITAR MAGAZINE
PLENTY OF YOUNGER PLAYERS LOSE A LOT WHEN THEY PLAY TOO MANY NOTES!
GUYS LIKE JOE SATRIANI AND STEVE VAI DON'T MAKE ME ILL, BUT THAT KIND OF ROCK GUITAR IS SO FAR FROM WHAT WE DO, IT'S ANOTHER KIND OF MUSIC!

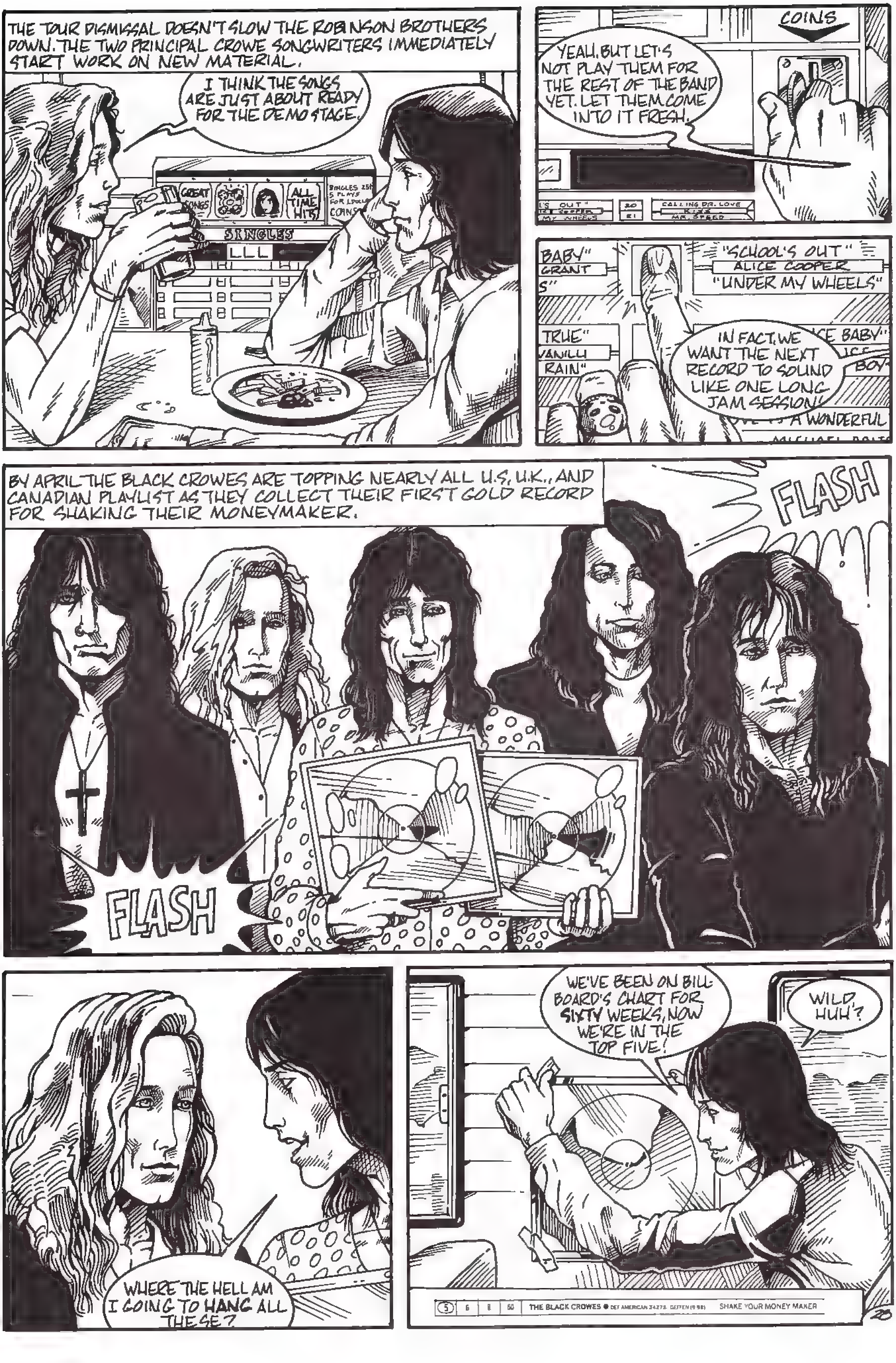
AT THIS JUNCTURE, THE BOYS HAVE BEEN ON THE ROAD FOR OVER A YEAR. AT A PITTSBURGH CONCERT...
SHE TALKS TO ANGELS...
HEY, THE SECURITY GUARDS ARE GETTING A LITTLE, UH... PHYSICAL!
SECURITY
Black Crowes
HEY! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU BABOONS DOIN'? YOU'RE FUCKING UP MY SONG!
DON'T BE TELLIN' THESE KIDS HOW TO ACT AT MY SHOW! THIS IS A CONCERT-THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO LOSE THEIR MINDS!
Black Crowes
SSPPLTOO
SECURITY

BACKSTAGE, THINGS ARE NO LESS RIOTOUS.
MAN, JEFF, GIRLS ARE LINING UP AT THE DOOR JUST TO MEET US! AND YOU, YA DOPE, ENGAGED TO YOUR GIRL, MARY!
THE LONG AND DUSTY CONCERT TRAIL WINDS THROUGH AMSTERDAM WHERE THEY JAM AT AN OUTDOOR PLAZA WITH FANS AND A FEW LOCAL PLAYERS.
YOU BOYS ARE UNDER ARREST FOR UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY AND CAUSING A RIOT!
THE RIDICULOUS CHARGE IS LATER DROPPED, THOUGH THE HASSLE CAUSES THEM TO BE LATE FOR THAT EVENING'S SHOW.
WELL, AT LEAST THE PRESS LOVES US! WE'VE GOT WRITE-UPS IN NEWSWEEK, USA TODAY, SPIN, ROLLING STONE...
IN FACT, THIS READERS AND CRITICS POLL IN STONE HAS US DOWN AS BEST NEW AMERICAN BAND!
gStone
AND BEING UP FOR A GRAMMY AS BEST NEW ARTIST...I FEEL LIKE I'M RIDING A ROCKETSHIP AT WARP TEN!

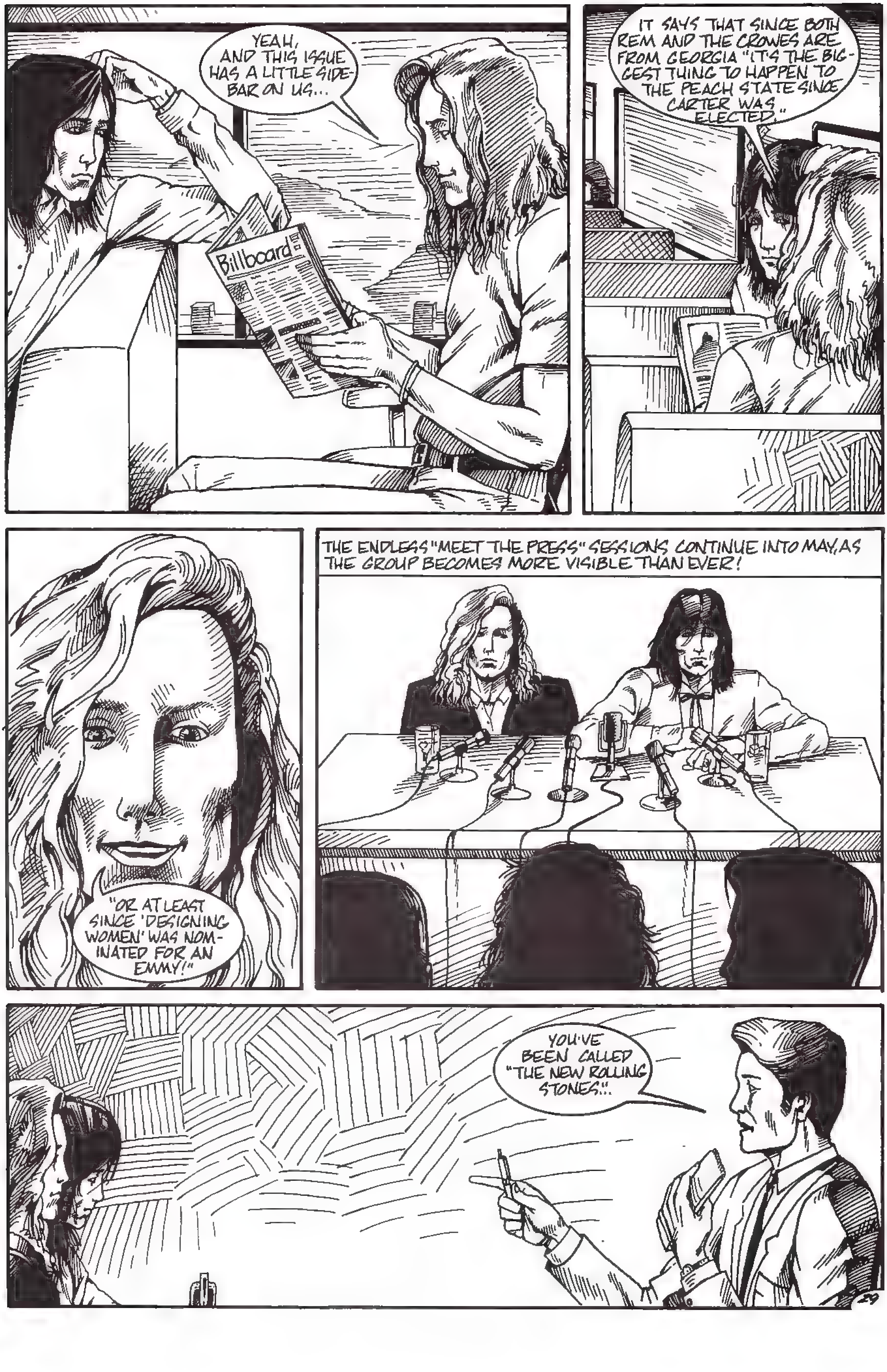
CHRIS USES ROLLING STONE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS INHERENT TO ONE WHO IS ALWAYS UNDER THE MEDIA MICROSCOPE.
THE RADIO STATION GOT UPSET THAT I DIDN'T ANSWER THE QUESTIONS. THEY THOUGHT I WAS SNOTTY.
HEY, I'M 24 YEARS OLD IN TEN DAYS AND I'M NOT FRIGGIN' KIP WINGER, OKAY? IF YOU WANT AN AMUSING ANECDOTE, GO TO MARK SLAUGHTER.
I'M SURE HE'LL SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "YEAH, WE HAD A COUPLE LITE BEERS AND RAN DOWN THE HOTEL HALLWAY IN OUR UNDERWEAR! WHOOOO!"
JANUARY '91 FINDS THEM DOING ONE HOUR SETS OPENING THE MAMMOTH ZZ TOP TOUR.
JO JO WAS A MAN WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A LONER
AFTER ONE STEAMY OPENING SET AT THE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT CIVIC CENTER, THE CROWES RETIRE TO A CONSIDERABLY SMALLER VENUE, THE RUSSIAN CLUB, FOR AN IMPROMPTU JAM WITH A LOCAL GROUP, THE SAVAGE BROTHERS.
C'MON SHAKE IT UP BABY... TWIST AND SHOUT...

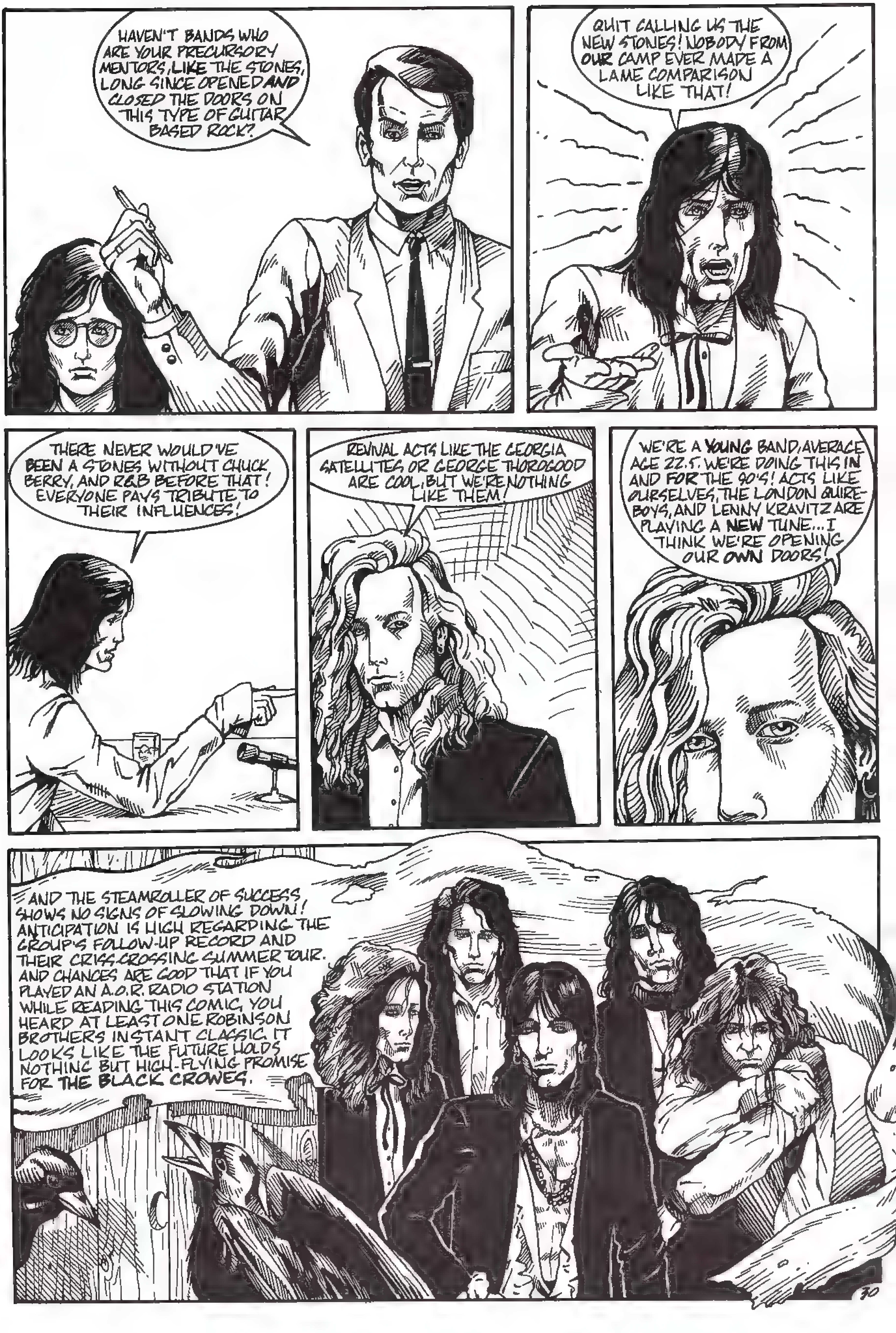

BOY, CHRIS, WHAT A SET! EVEN WITH ALL THE HASSLES THERE'S NOTHING LIKE JUST GETTING UP AND JAMMIN'! WE'VE SURE HAD A RUN OF LUCK THIS YEAR!
OCEAN PIZZA
HHAASK
RICH, WE'RE NOT HERE 'CAUSE WE'RE LUCKY! WE'RE HERE 'CAUSE WE'RE ALL GREAT AT WHAT WE DO. WE EAT, BREATHE, AND DREAM ROCK AND ROLL!
HEY, GUYS, YOU WERE GREAT TO-NIGHT! CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPHS?
SURE!
SAY, IT'S TOO BAD THE SOUND SYSTEM WAS SO BUZZY AND CLUNKY TO-NIGHT. IT WAS PRETTY BAD THE FIRST FEW SONGS.
DAMNED RIGHT IT WAS! YOU HEARD A **REAL** BAND TONIGHT, NOT SOME LIP-SYNCH-ING MILLI VANILLI!


AS MTV BEGINS HEAVILY PROMOTING "SHE TALKS TO ANGELS," THE CROWES ARE ALIGHTING OTHER AREA CLUBS IN CITIES LIKE CHICAGO TO JAM WITH ALBERT COLLINS, THE KINSEY REPORT AND OTHER STELLAR PLAYERS.
HOWEVER, IN MARCH 1991...
WHAT?! THEY'RE FIRING US FROM THE ZZ TOP TOUR?!
WELL, YOUR MANAGER WARNED YOU ABOUT BEING SO OUTSPOKEN WITH THE PRESS. THIS TIME YOU BAD MOUTHED THE TOUR'S SPONSORS --BUD LIGHT...
...AND BECAME AN INSTANT P.R. LIABILITY!
AND THE PUSSIES DON'T EVEN COME OUT AND TELL US TO OUR FACES!
SINCE WHEN DOES A ROCK AND ROLL SHOW RUN ON POLITICS?!
SHORTLY THEREAFTER, CHRIS AND RICH APPEAR ON MTV'S CALL-IN INTERVIEW SHOW ROCKLINE (AS JOHN MAYALL IS HIRED TO OPEN ZZ TOP'S REMAINING TOUR DATES).
ESCHEWING ANY DISCUSSION OF THE FIRING, THE GROUP PERFORMS A NEW ACOUSTIC COMPOSITION ON THE PROGRAM.



THE TOUR DISMISSAL DOESN'T SLOW THE ROBINSON BROTHERS DOWN. THE TWO PRINCIPAL CROWE SONGWRITERS IMMEDIATELY START WORK ON NEW MATERIAL.
I THINK THE SONGS ARE JUST ABOUT READY FOR THE DEMO STAGE.
GREAT SONGS
ALL TIME HITS
SINGLES 25¢
COINS
SINGLES
COINS
YEAH, BUT LET'S NOT PLAY THEM FOR THE REST OF THE BAND YET. LET THEM COME INTO IT FRESH.
CALLING DR. LOVE
KISS
MR. SPEED
"SCHOOL'S OUT"
ALICE COOPER
"UNDER MY WHEELS"
BABY"
GRANT
TRUE"
VANILLI
RAIN"
IN FACT, WE WANT THE NEXT RECORD TO SOUND LIKE ONE LONG JAM SESSION!
A WONDERFUL
BY APRIL THE BLACK CROWES ARE TOPPING NEARLY ALL U.S, U.K., AND CANADIAN PLAYLIST AS THEY COLLECT THEIR FIRST GOLD RECORD FOR SHAKING THEIR MONEYMAKER.
FLASH
FLASH
WHERE THE HELL AM I GOING TO HANG ALL THESE?
WE'VE BEEN ON BILLBOARD'S CHART FOR SIXTY WEEKS, NOW WE'RE IN THE TOP FIVE!
WILD, HUH?
5 6 8 60 THE BLACK CROWES DEF AMERICAN 24278 GEFFEN (9.98) SHAKE YOUR MONEY MAKER


YEAH, AND THIS ISSUE HAS A LITTLE SIDE-BAR ON US...
Billboard
IT SAYS THAT SINCE BOTH REM AND THE CROWES ARE FROM GEORGIA "IT'S THE BIG-GEST THING TO HAPPEN TO THE PEACH STATE SINCE CARTER WAS ELECTED,"
"OR AT LEAST SINCE 'DESIGNING WOMEN' WAS NOM-INATED FOR AN EMMY!"
THE ENDLESS "MEET THE PRESS" SESSIONS CONTINUE INTO MAY, AS THE GROUP BECOMES MORE VISIBLE THAN EVER!
YOU'VE BEEN CALLED "THE NEW ROLLING STONES"...


HAVEN'T BANDS WHO ARE YOUR PRECURSORY MENTORS, LIKE THE STONES, LONG SINCE OPENED AND CLOSED THE DOORS ON THIS TYPE OF GUITAR BASED ROCK?
QUIT CALLING US THE NEW STONES! NOBODY FROM OUR CAMP EVER MADE A LAME COMPARISON LIKE THAT!
THERE NEVER WOULD'VE BEEN A STONES WITHOUT CHUCK BERRY, AND R&B BEFORE THAT! EVERYONE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THEIR INFLUENCES!
REVIVAL ACTS LIKE THE GEORGIA SATELLITES OR GEORGE THOROGOOD ARE COOL, BUT WE'RE NOTHING LIKE THEM!
WE'RE A YOUNG BAND, AVERAGE AGE 22.5. WE'RE DOING THIS IN AND FOR THE 90'S! ACTS LIKE OURSELVES, THE LONDON QUIREBOYS, AND LENNY KRAVITZ ARE PLAYING A NEW TUNE... I THINK WE'RE OPENING OUR OWN DOORS!
AND THE STEAMROLLER OF SUCCESS SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN! ANTICIPATION IS HIGH REGARDING THE GROUP'S FOLLOW-UP RECORD AND THEIR CRISS-CROSSING SUMMER TOUR. AND CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT IF YOU PLAYED AN A.O.R. RADIO STATION WHILE READING THIS COMIC, YOU HEARD AT LEAST ONE ROBINSON BROTHERS INSTANT CLASSIC. IT LOOKS LIKE THE FUTURE HOLDS NOTHING BUT HIGH-FLYING PROMISE FOR THE BLACK CROWES.
30

(Continued from inside front cover.)

WICCANS WEPLY WIGHTEOUSLY

I hope that you will be more responsible in the future, as a great many children will read this.
Blessed Be,

Thomas,
Coven Of The Two Lands,
P.O. Box 144, Fairless Hills, PA 19030-0144"

Well, Thomas, that's what we have this column for. If we make a mistake, we're glad to print a correction, after all, we're only human!

KITCHEN SINKS

You may recall back in issue 26 (The Doors, pt. 1), I wrote an editorial about how none of the comic book publishers of America would acknowledge in writing their First Amendment rights. I also mentioned that this was particularly surprising in the case of Denis Kitchen, (Kitchen Sink Press), because of the fact that he is in charge of a defense fund whose sole purpose is to uphold the First Amendment rights of comic book publishers and dealers.
WELL...it turns out Denis saw my editorial and he was a bit miffed about it. I saw him at the Comicon in San Diego, and offered to take him out to dinner to discuss the whole matter. He declined my offer, but took the opportunity to state his opinions about my column. The conversation went like this:

Kitchen: You gave the impression that you were only saying those things because you were miffed about the fact that we didn't defend your case.
Loren: No, I was miffed about the fact that a man who heads an organization such as this would not be willing to state his own First Amendment rights in writing.
Kitchen: I wouldn't do that because I suspected that you had a hidden agenda.

Loren: You thought that based on what? Is there anything about me that would suggest that I have a hidden agenda?
Kitchen: Also you appear to be misinformed about the history of the defense fund. We successfully defended DC Comics in court.
Loren: Well, if I am misinformed, I'd appreciate it if you'd send me whatever information you have

KITCHEN: *"I suspected you had a hidden agenda."*

to properly inform me. Also, I'd be more than happy to print any letter you might send. And if you can prove me wrong, I'd be more than happy to admit it, just communicate! I'm very accessible, all you have to do is pick up the phone!
Kitchen: Well, that sounds fair. I'll do that.

I then re-extended my dinner offer, for any future occasion in which he may be back in the beautiful city of San Diego, and left. Then I got to thinking...

What's going on here? Denis Kitchen owns a medium-sized publishing company whose main purpose is to reprint comic strips from the past. Why would he assume that I, the owner of a company substantially smaller than his, would have a hidden agenda? Why would he brag about defending a company like DC Comics which is part of the largest monopolistic communications conglomerate in America (Time Warner), a corporation which clearly doesn't need his help? Why would he not suspect them of having a "hidden agenda"? And most importantly, why would a man put in charge of defending the First Amendment in the comic book industry, deny his own First Amendment rights just because of an unsubstantiated suspicion that a small publisher might have a "hidden agenda"? Can he possibly be so spineless? Should such a spineless individual be in such a position?

I hope that Denis was serious when he said that he'd write to me, because I really would like to print his letter. Denis, you're a publisher, a noble profession, the purpose of which is communication.
Now...communicate!!!
Peace.

PLUG ONE, PLUG TWO...

Here's what's coming from Revolutionary Comics in July and August...
___BEATLES EXPERIENCE 4- Grab 'em while you can! Limited embossed, numbered cover!
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___ROCK N' ROLL COMICS 34- Black Crowes, you got it now!
___ROCK N' ROLL COMICS 35- R.E.M. art by Blackwell
___ROCK N' ROLL COMICS 36- Michael Jackson
___PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE 3- The Dark Side, Animals, Wish
___CONSPIRACY COMICS 1- Who really killed Marilyn Monroe?

FUTUREPLAN

In September look for SEXPOT 1, the first of a new ADULT line of comics published by Revolutionary! This book will be an all- Lyndal Ferguson extravaganza! Oh, and by the way the new adult imprint will be called CARNAL COMICS! And also in September, the first issue of BASEBALL SUPERSTARS! This issue will feature pitching great Nolan Ryan, with art by Greg Fox! Then in October look for CONTEMPORARY BIO-GRAPHICS 1, featuring the story of Stan Lee, Board Chairman of Marvel, Inc.! More about this and my meeting with Stan ...later!

CARNAL COMICS

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